

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 667

By Keisling

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of William "Bill" Napier of Chatsworth, Georgia.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of William "Bill" Napier; and

WHEREAS, Bill Napier was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Napier was the son of the late Billy J. and Edwina Napier. He attended Celina High School and was a member of the Class of 1974; and

WHEREAS, Bill Napier was an extraordinary athlete during his time at Celina High School, playing on both the basketball and football teams. He is best remembered as the starting senior quarterback on the Celina Lions' 1974 championship team, which finished with a 10-1 season; and

WHEREAS, his many incredible athletic feats in high school earned him a place in the inaugural class of the Clay County Sports Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from high school, Mr. Napier furthered his education at Tennessee Technological University with a football scholarship. It was during his time at Tennessee Tech that Mr. Napier discovered his life's passion and future career of coaching; and

WHEREAS, upon graduating from Tennessee Tech, Bill Napier coached the Celina K-8 Junior High football team in 1979. A year later, Coach Napier served as an assistant coach at Livingston Academy; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, Bill Napier and his family moved to Chatsworth, Georgia, and he began a twenty-five-year tenure at Murray County High School. First, he served as an assistant coach and coordinator and then, in 1991, as head coach of the football team; and

WHEREAS, the all-time winningest coach at Murray County High School, Coach Napier amassed nearly 100 wins, including multiple regional championships, several playoff appearances, and a quarterfinal run in 2000; and

WHEREAS, after resigning from Murray County in 2006, Bill Napier served as offensive coordinator at Southeast Whitfield High School, Adairsville High School, and finally at Dalton High School; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Napier had a profound impact on numerous student athletes during his many years as a coach; his leadership and mentoring undoubtedly equipped many generations of young Tennesseans and Georgians with the disposition and discipline needed to serve as good stewards of their communities; and

WHEREAS, Bill Napier was a man of devout Christian faith, and he was known to share and advocate those principles to all he encountered; and

WHEREAS, he was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Bill Napier will be remembered by his loving wife, Pam Napier; his sons and daughters-in law, Billy and Ali Napier, Matt and Casi Napier, and Kurt and Tiffany Napier; his daughter and son-in-law, Whitney and Jamal Releford; his grandchildren, Jett, Bear, Annie, Sammy, Charlie, and Reghan; his brothers and sisters-in-law, Jack and Mara Napier and Don and Natalie Napier; his sisters and brothers-in-law, Betsy and Merrill Holtam and Linda and Jerry Strong; his nephew; and his many special nieces, cousins, and extended family members; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Napier leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of William "Bill" Napier, reflecting fondly upon his

impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Napier.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.